(b) if so, the specific steps taken to fulfil commitment to meet the deadline; and

(c) the details of the road map drawn-up, if any, towards sector decontrol involving *inter-alia* withdrawal of subsidies on Kerosene and cooking gas rationalizing duty structure and liquidating the oil pool deficit etc. and their present status?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a)Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The details are yet to be finalised.

Reduction of subsidy on LPG

253. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to reduce subsidy on Liquid Petroleum Gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if so, by when the proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) to (c)As per the Government decisions of November 1997 on the phased dismantling of the administered pricing mechanism (APM), subsidy on Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) at 15% of the import parity is to be met from the fiscal budget effective 1.4.2002. At present, no proposal is under consideration of the Government in this regard.

Utilisation of Natural Gas

254. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of natural gas being utilised in different parts of the country;

(b) the quantity of gas being processed into LPG and plans for increasing LPG production in the country, State-wise; and

(c) the details of steps taken by Government to utilise natural gas in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) During the current financial year 2001-02 (upto September, 2001), the average natural gas utilisation in the country is of the order of 76.20 million standard cubic meters per day (MMSCMD), which includes around 10.20 MMSCMD utilised for internal consumption by the gas producing companies.

(b) Presently, around 3.52 MMSCMD of natural gas is being processed for production of Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG) in the LPG processing plants at Duliyajan & Lakwa in Assam, Vijaipur in M.P., Usar in Maharashtra, Auraiya in U.P. and Vaghodia & Gandhar in Gujarat. In view of the existing commitments for supply of natural gas to consumers, there are no plans to increase its processing for LPG production.

(c) An allocation of the order of 118.67 MMSCMD of natural gas has been allocated to consumers in various sectors for utilisation in the country. However, the present availability of natural gas is around 65 MMSCMD only.

Production of small size gas cylinders

255. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to introduce small size cooking gas cylinders;

(b) if so, the details thereof togetherwith the cost and gas weight of the cylinder; and

(c) whether Government have also agreed to reduce the cost of gas cylinders already in use, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Government have given 'in-principle' approval to Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies to market 5 kg. LPG cylinders for domestic purpose. The cost of the 5 kg. cylinder (domestic) has not been finalised so far.

(c) At present, there is no such proposal.